

# The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

March 25, 2021

*"The Hampden-Sydney student will behave as a gentleman at all times and in all places."*

Issue XCX.10

## Arieti Retires: Classics Dept. Ancient History?

MICHAEL VAN CITTERS '22  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After an impressive 43 years of teaching at Hampden-Sydney, Thompson Professor of Classics Dr. James Arieti is set to retire at the conclusion of the 2020–21 school year. But although Arieti looks forward to a retirement spent thinking, writing, and being with his family, the Department he leaves behind seems in danger of being lost to the slaughterbench of H-SC history. Last spring, the College decided not to hire a new Classics professor to replace his position. Every spring, the Dean of the Faculty appoints six faculty members (three from each division) to the Committee on Appointments. Per the guidelines set out in the Faculty Handbook, faculty members appointed to the Committee, who

remain anonymous through the whole process, cannot come from departments requesting new hires. Departments that want new tenure-track positions submit requests for them to the Committee, and after reviewing them, the Committee submits a list of positions that it does and does not recommend to the

Dean of the Faculty, who reviews the recommendations and sends them to the Board of Trustees. Once submitted by the Dean, the Academics Committee of the Board of Trustees reviews and discusses the recommendations and votes to approve them. Professor of History Dr. John Coombs, who is the current faculty

representative to the H-SC Board of Trustees, explained that the Academics Committee does not discuss the positions that were not recommended by the Dean; it discusses only the ones that were. Although, according to Coombs, no formal discussion of the Committee's recommendation against hiring a new Classics professor

took place at last year's meeting, Dean of the Faculty Dr. Mike McDermott reported having spoken with Dr. Eugene Hickok '72, the chair of the Academics Committee, about the departments whose proposals were rejected by the faculty Committee on Appointments. Once the Academics Committee has discussed and

voted on the Dean's recommendations, the entire Board votes on them. At the 2020 Board of Trustees meeting, the Academics Committee reviewed proposals for faculty replacements for the History and Government/Foreign Affairs Departments and new tenure-line positions for the Biology and Business/Economics Departments. The Academics Committee approved all faculty positions unanimously, and the Board voted to approve the Academics Committee's decision. The Classics Department, in addition to Arieti, currently includes Elliott Associate Professor of Classics Dr. Janice Siegel and Associate Professor of Classics Dr. Robert Irons '00. Last spring, the Department submitted a request for a replacement of Arieti's ten-



Photo courtesy Michael Van Citters '22

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## Our Best Shot: Vaccinations at H-SC

GRAYSON HARMON '22  
STAFF WRITER

Hampden-Sydney College has seen relatively low positive COVID-19 cases on campus throughout the 2020–21 fall semester and in the early weeks of the spring semester. It's students, faculty, and staff have all continuously followed H-SC's COVID-19 guidelines to ensure a successful school year with healthy and

Sabbatini said that the college plans to host several vaccination clinics here on campus, at the firehouse above the Buildings and Grounds building. The school's administration is working closely with the Virginia Department of Health to get those who fall into the vaccination categories (1-A, 1-B, and 1-C) the opportunity to get vaccinated. Dean Sabbatini noted that some of the faculty fall into

... the Buildings and Grounds crew are one of the top priorities, as they are deemed some of the College's most "essential employees."

safe learning environments at all times. As COVID-19 vaccines roll out and become more readily available, and as more people have gotten vaccinated, Hampden-Sydney has an open mind when it comes to vaccination. When asked to give an update on H-SC administrations' vaccination plans, Dean of the Faculty Robert

the 1-B group and the school would reach out to them about an option to get vaccinated or not. Also, the Buildings and Grounds crew are one of the top priorities, as they are deemed some of the College's most "essential employees." As the COVID-19 vaccines become more readily available, Sabbatini

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## Leadership Honors Society Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) Leads in New Members

BRENNAN VAUGHT '21  
GUEST WRITER

Following possibly the best week of weather this Spring, Omicron Delta Kappa's Lambda Circle welcomed their newest class of initiates on Sunday, March 14th. The initiates were nominated and elected because of their leadership roles across many disciplines of college life, such as the following: athletics, academics, creative arts, journalism, and campus involvement. This initiation

was unique in that it was performed in the Lambda Circle's original initiation location, the College Church,

dent members, and one honoris causa. The most special part of the ODK initiations are the

The initiates were nominated and elected because of their leadership roles across many disciplines of college life, such as the following: athletics, academics, creative arts, journalism, and campus involvement.

despite being held in Gilmer 019 last semester. The class of initiates this semester totaled fifteen members including twelve students, two resi-

personal introductions. In one, a current member speaks about the on-campus leadership involvement of the initiate, occasionally sharing a story,

or a joke, and speaks about why the initiate will be a productive member of ODK. This is a great way to both get to know the initiates and lighten the mood of the initiation, which can seem overwhelming at times. Moreover, because all the initiates are such outstanding members of the community, it adds a very nice personal touch to the ceremony. *The Tiger* would like to congratulate all new members on their initiation into ODK.



Photo courtesy Patrick Garifo '23

Back: J. Michael Utzinger, James B. "Jeb" Wall '22, Luke T. Carter '22, Ian P. Fitzgerald '22, Cody C. Brugos '22, Matthew A. Marsh '22, G. L. "Woody" Parsons '22, Joseph P. Kelly '22. Front: Aaron E. Moorer '21, P.J. LeBel '21, Craig A. Burns '21, Odessa H. Pride, A. W. Leighton Holm '22, Elijah H. Edwards '22, Lisa A. Burns

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Page 4: Gun Range, Muggsy Bogues

Page 5: Tiger Football, NBA, Hockey Corner

Page 6: Satire, Christians' Corner, Continuations



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H-SC Classics Majors 2010–20

|         | Classical Studies | Greek | Latin | Greek and Latin |
|---------|-------------------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| 2010–11 | 3                 | 0     | 2     | 1               |
| 2011–12 | 5                 | 0     | 1     | 0               |
| 2012–13 | 4                 | 0     | 0     | 0               |
| 2013–14 | 4                 | 0     | 0     | 0               |
| 2014–15 | 3                 | 1     | 1     | 0               |
| 2015–16 | 1                 | 0     | 0     | 0               |
| 2016–17 | 3                 | 1     | 0     | 0               |
| 2017–18 | 4                 | 1     | 0     | 1               |
| 2018–19 | 2                 | 1     | 1     | 2               |
| 2019–20 | 3                 | 1     | 2     | 2               |

H-SC Classics Minors 2013–20

|         | Classical Studies | Greek | Latin |
|---------|-------------------|-------|-------|
| 2013–14 | 6                 | 0     | 1     |
| 2014–15 | 5                 | 0     | 2     |
| 2015–16 | 4                 | 1     | 0     |
| 2016–17 | 9                 | 0     | 3     |
| 2017–18 | 10                | 0     | 1     |
| 2018–19 | 7                 | 0     | 1     |
| 2019–20 | 6                 | 0     | 5     |

Classics Dept. cont’d

ure-track position, but the replacement was not recommended by the Committee on Appointments. And although word eventually got out that the hire was not recommended, no public announcement was made.

In 2017 and 2018, McDermott sent emails to the entire faculty announcing the recommendations of the Committee and their rationales publicly, but in 2019 and 2020, no such lists were sent out to the faculty. Irons said that he received neither a rationale nor any communication from the Office of the Dean of the Faculty after the decision was made.

Irons reports that he was only informed of the Committee on Appointments’ decision during a private conversation with an administrator, and Arieti said he wasn’t told at all. Unsure of why the Committee did not recommend the hire, Irons, who will be on sabbatical all of next year, requested the Committee’s report from the Dean of the Faculty in early September of 2020. Irons said that he did not receive the report until March 11, 2021.

When asked why the Committee chose not to recommend a new Classics hire, McDermott explained that it was a matter of numbers. Over the past decade, he explained, the Department has seen a decrease in the number of majors and minors it reports, as well as a decrease in its number of student-generated credit hours.

Although Irons will be on sabbatical for the 2021–22 academic year, both Stimpert and McDermott reassured in separate interviews that the College will find a temporary replacement for Irons’s position by the end of this academic year and that the temporary professor will teach all seven courses that Irons would normally teach.

McDermott added that higher education has a “hiring season” and said

that Classics students should not be concerned about the College’s ability to find a temporary faculty member. McDermott did not specify when the hiring season begins or ends. McDermott’s explanation of the reason for not hiring a new Classics position is corroborated by what is said in the Committee on Appointments’ report. According to the report, which was provided by Irons, there are three reasons why the hire was not recommended. The report reads as follows:

“... given the low number enrollments in many of the language-level classes offered in this department, the challenge of trying to sustain 3 different majors and minors within such a small department, and the diminishing number of majors and minors overall, the committee does not support the replacement of a tenure-track line in Classics.”

How eliminating a position from Classics will help the Department to rise to “the challenge of sustaining 3 different majors and minors” is unclear. The numbers-based rationale, however, seems sound. But a brief look at the College’s *Fact Books* from the past decade—documents that are password-protected but available digitally to all faculty and students on the H-SC website—will show that the third and perhaps the strongest rationale listed by the Committee is at odds with numbers that the College has published.

The Classics Department offers four majors (Classical Studies, Greek, Latin, and Greek and Latin) and three minors (Classical Studies, Greek, and Latin). The earliest *Fact Book* on the website, from the 2010–11 school year, reports only six majors (minors were not introduced until 2013). The most recent *Fact Book*, published in the spring of 2019, reports eight majors and 11 minors for a combined total of 19 majors and minors,

including eight majors and 11 minors. The chart above, made with data from the *Fact Books* from the past ten years, does not reflect a diminishing but an increase. Since minors were introduced in the 2013–14 school year, the number of majors and minors has grown from 11 to 19. In the 2019–20 school year, there were more Classics majors than there were at any point in the past seven years.

While the number of students studying Greek has undoubtedly diminished since the College dropped its ancient languages requirement in 1968, the Department has not seen a recent drop in numbers—not in the past decade at least.

In an interview, McDermott affirmed his commitment to keeping Classics alive and explained that he sees Classics as an important feature of a small, private, liberal arts college, adding that last year’s request was not the Department’s last opportunity to request a new position.

Later this year or at any point in the future the Department could submit another request for a tenure-track position, and the request could be fulfilled, pending the Classics Department’s ability to improve its numbers. But with one fewer professor on campus next year and a temporary professor who has yet to be hired, it is hard to see how the Classics Department could possibly improve its numbers any time soon.

And while McDermott reassured that Classics is safe and pointed out that there has been no proposal by the faculty to eliminate the Classics Department, without the position that Arieti currently holds, Classics will be the smallest department on campus.

Reflecting on the Committee on Appointments’ decision not to replace him, Arieti commented that if he had known that the College was not going to replace his position,

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he would not have retired in the first place.

Siegel, who is currently on a research sabbatical, expressed optimism for the Department’s future. “Yes, it was disappointing to hear that our request for a third tenure line was denied,” she commented, “but the report I was given fills me with hope for the future.”

Siegel added that she is “confident we will find ways to invigorate our programs so we can better address the ever-changing needs of our students and the College,” adding that “soon we will be in a position to apply again. With the support of the College (particularly instructional support), I have no doubt that

Classics will continue to thrive at H-SC.”

When asked to comment on the Committee’s decision not to replace the position, Irons said that while he “[does] not question the decision to not recommend the position in Classics,” noting that “there may be a very good reason for this recommendation,” he “very much question[s] the rationale.”

Quoting evidence from the request that the Department submitted to the Committee, Irons explained that “Classics reported a ‘record number’ of majors and minors to the Committee, stating that ‘our current total of twenty-one (21) declared majors and minors in our

various programs, a 50% increase from just seven years ago, is clear evidence of our upward trend in student engagement.”

“I am apparently expected to believe,” added Irons, “that either (1) a committee of [six] highly intelligent professors—charged with considering carefully the proposal—either got the numbers all wrong, and that the Dean was either unwilling [to] or incapable of correcting them, or that (2) the Committee’s report is utterly fabricated, and that it is clear evidence that the Office of the Dean has repeatedly lied to me, and that it has perpetuated this lie to the greater H-SC community.”



*The Hampden-Sydney Tiger Staff, circa 1979. Courtesy of the Kaleidoscope*

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Photo courtesy Michael Van Citters, '22

# The 4-Week Session Is Not Conducive to Education

JEFFREY HUNSAKER '23  
STAFF WRITER

The timeliness of this article, or lack thereof I suppose, is—almost entirely—a result of the subject matter, for it has taken me five weeks to regain the mental acuity necessary to write sentences coherent enough for this press.

I am not the typical Hampden-Sydney student, nor do I purport to be; I do, however, have at least a couple of friends who themselves may also not be typical Hampden-Sydney students, but our spectrum is wide enough that having similar experiences speaks volumes.

In short, our experiences, alongside some conversations I've had with members of the faculty and other students, have culminated into both my title and the thesis of my argument. I will begin by defending that little to no learning happened in the four week sessions, then I will assert that the sessions did massive damage, and finally I will reject the false dichotomy of "four week or online."

In the two four week sessions, I took two classes each. If, right now, you, dear reader, were to ask me to tell you some of the most basic concepts covered in those classes, I could probably deliver a serviceable summary that provides little to no more depth than the entry for the class in the academic catalogue.

I'm certainly no genius, but I've never finished a class and truly felt like I learned nothing, until now. I certainly attempted to memorize the necessary information to function in the classes, but the schedule was set at breakneck speed, moving from concept to concept.

The Academic Catalogue states in the second paragraph of the Academic Program section that "[t]he mere facts about a

subject do not speak for themselves. They must be interpreted against a background of ideas derived from an understanding of the nature of logic, language, and ethics."

This goal of the college is one of the many that makes me proud to call Hampden-Sydney my home; however, it seems like this lofty ambition was cast to the side in favor of the specific plan the college went with. An average day called for anywhere between 40 and 150 pages of reading, often with associated writing.

Add on top of that working on essays, preparing for exams, and occasionally eating; there was no time to think about the nature of the ideas we were studying. Multiple people have mentioned to me that they read entire full-length books, cover-to-cover, in just a day or two. If we were reading "The Itsy Bitsy Spider," my contentions would not be as severe.

I am proud many departments of this college are not lowering themselves to that level. We are a liberal arts college, but for 8 weeks, we were a collection of memorization machines working 50–90 hours a week just to get by.

I believe I have harped on the point of a lack of education for long enough. Allow me now to address the massive amount of damage caused by the four week session. The damage was dealt to three main areas: GPA, mental health, and cognitive function. I will not disclose my own GPA nor would I ask any of my brothers to disclose theirs; however, I will say that mine went down, and I'd bet the 17 dollars I currently have to say that I'm not the exception.

As for mental health, the scope of my knowledge is similar to that of GPA, but I have a bit more to say. I don't believe it is a controversial point to say that the year of

COVID-19, *ceteris paribus*, has been bad for mental health. Those developed and developing issues could only have been exacerbated by the workload of the four week sessions.

I've always heard that for every hour of class at Sydney, we should do three hours of work. Let's assume two classes which meet for an hour-45 a day. That's 3 and a half hours of class a day and 10 and a half hours of out of class work a day. With a recommended 14 hours of work a day, it's a wonder that anyone had the time to eat, much less get the slightest amount of social interaction or leisure time necessary for human function.

Now, I will give that not every class requires that level of work, and I will give that not everyone had two difficult classes. I will assert, though, that there were many people who had to take difficult classes (like organic chemistry) in the four week session in order to graduate on time. Some may have gotten off lucky, but such people are the envied exception.

I will now speak on damage to

cognitive function: it is a different, yet similar path to the one walked previously concerning workload. I'm going to use the 14 hours of work a day figure despite the exceptions. 14 times 5 is 70. Let's assume none of us ever tried in vain to play catch-up on the weekends to get ahead. We had to work 70 hours a week. I burnt out. Hard.

And I'm not alone. I was always exhausted, unmotivated, dissatisfied with my work, and frustrated. All of these are common symptoms of burnout (not to mention lowered immunity and frequent illnesses—a great trait during a global pandemic). As I quipped in my opening line, I'm just now getting out of the burnout, just now getting back to normal. The damage of the four weeks was lasting to me, and I'm certain I'm not alone.

Finally, allow me to address the false dichotomy of "four week or online" while still keeping us in person and allowing us enough space to hold classes: 7 and 7 with Wednesdays off. Class

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# The Office of Equity and Inclusion Needs to Slow Down...

JONAH POPP '21  
OPINION EDITOR

... with all their exceptional speakers and guests over Zoom these past couple semesters: TC Carson, the man who voiced Mace Windu in Star Wars: The Clone Wars (among many characters), Ibram Kendi, author of How to Be an Antiracist, Keisha N. Blaine, one of America's most prominent researchers of African-American history, Sekou Kaalund '97, managing director at J.P. Morgan and a leader of their "Advancing Black Pathways" program, and even Muggsy Bogues, retired legendary point guard for

the Charlotte Hornets.

Over the past semester and a half, the Office of Equity and Inclusion has brought some of the College's best and most earth-shaking speakers to campus (albeit virtually), while I have a difficult time naming a single speaker that another department has brought in. Even the student clubs have not brought to campus any speaker anywhere near to this caliber.

My question to other organizations on campus is: why not? I'd love to see more prominent and successful individuals coming to this campus to elevate the quality of the experience that our student body has. The

# Student Senate Should Not Pass Cannabis Bill

DANIEL NIVENS '21  
STAFF WRITER

Shortly after the March 10 edition of The Tiger, an unknown student posted a copy of Lucio Chavez's article "Up in Smoke: Student Senate Fails to Pass Cannabis Resolution" to the door of the Student Senate. On this copy, the student highlighted Senator Noah Moore '22's with the words "REPRESENT THE PEOPLE, NOT YOUR INTERESTS."

Ironically, Moore's great crime was questioning the popular support among the student body for the resolution. With Chavez's article promising that the resolution will be introduced again, I thought it prudent to state clearly why the bill is bad for Hampden-Sydney.

The bill, which was proposed by Senator Varun Yerramsetti

'21, was written in response to Virginia's "decriminalization" of marijuana. Virginia's bill updated the law to make possession only a ticketable misdemeanor with a maximum fine of \$25. Yerramsetti's bill proposed updating the Hampden-Sydney Code of Conduct to hold the exact same punishment—no more than a fine of \$25. Both bills were proposed (and in the first case passed) despite the conflict with federal law, which still holds marijuana to be a Controlled Substance.

Other than that notable problem, there are a collection of others.

One of the first well noted issues with the reduction of penalty for cannabis usage is the concept of public nuisance. Frankly speaking, for those of us who do not smoke marijuana, the smell is al-

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# Path of Destruction: Assessing the State of the Road to the Grove

MASON GWALTNEY '21  
STAFF WRITER

As many students undoubtedly know and have quite possibly have had the misfortune of tripping on or stepping into, the gravel sidewalk connecting The Grove to Chalgrove Bridge is absolutely littered in potholes ranging from a golf ball sized divot to gaping holes three inches deep and approximately a foot or more wide. The sidewalk is falling apart under every step a student takes along the sidewalk. It is a challenge to find a ten-foot section of sidewalk

without some varying degree of damage.

Most unfortunate of all is that B&G is not able to do anything in an effort to repair or, at the very least, slow the spread of destruction. The duty to repair the sidewalk falls onto the contractors who were hired to construct this gravel sidewalk.

While the contractors are aware of this major issue in their work they have begun and plan to continue their effort to repair the sidewalk in its entirety. A small section has been successfully repaired at this

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NEWS

# OEI Hosts NBA Legend Muggsy Bogues

JACOB MYERS '21  
SPORTS EDITOR

On March 4th, 2021, former NBA star Muggsy Bogues spoke with the student body via the Office of Equity and Inclusion. Bogues is a decorated 13-year NBA player, with most of his time spent with the Charlotte Hornets. For those unfamiliar with Muggsy Bogues, he’s well-known for being the shortest player in NBA history at 5’3. However, despite his height, he crafted his game around his body, working twice as hard as the average person to be successful in the hyper-competitive NBA. At the event, Dean of Inclusive Excellence John Hollemon began the conversation by asking Bogues about his

college experience at Wake Forest. Even though he didn’t immediately graduate, Bogues noted how important it is for college athletes to put academics ahead of sports even if there is a potential to play professionally. Furthermore, Bogues noted the importance of being properly educated before playing professional sports—when a player is confronted with large sums of money, it is still important to understand what your expenses are. He then went on to highlight the importance of social media as a college or professional athlete. Muggsy believes that social media is important to use as a brand for players. While some may have used social media negatively, he

believes that not only can athletes use it to build their brands, but they can also use them to speak positively on social issues in America. Of course, it would be impossible to have a conversation with Muggsy without discussing his NBA career in detail. When asked about his favorite NBA memory, Muggsy responded with his draft night in 1987. He is quoted by saying, “all my work came full circle”, and “the moment was surreal”. He also noted how important his mentors were in the NBA, most importantly NBA legend Moses Malone. While Muggsy grew up playing the game and was surely used to playing at a high level despite his height, the adjustment to the NBA can

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## Road to Grove, cont’d

point and the college is actively communicating with the contractor to hopefully have the contractor return during Spring Break and repair the entire sidewalk while the foot traffic by students is essentially negligible.

If the needed repairs cannot be made in their entirety during the Spring Break, the hope is that the contractors will be able to return again during Summer Break. This will be another point in time when foot

traffic by students is essentially negligible. This will hopefully result in the contractor to finally finish repairing the dilapidated sidewalk so that it can cease to be a walking hazard for students.

## Cannabis Bill cont’d

most vomit-inducing. It varies person-to-person, but at the very least the smell is highly unpleasant. The unpleasantness will not just be contained to students, though. What sort of image does that leave in the minds of prospective students and their parents while they tour? Or perhaps the faculty while they walk from their offices to their next class? These problems exist in some form now, but if the punishment were reduced, students would have less of an incentive to stay away from others on the outskirts of campus to smoke. Beyond the concerns of the students, though, the bill also threatens to cause problems among the alumni and the administration. Much of the alumni who donate to the school do not necessarily share the attitudes of the Virginia General Assembly on cannabis legislation. Their support is foundational to the success of Sydney; have they been consulted on what

they think of the bill? Then there comes the issue of the administration. It is unlikely that the administration would ever allow the bill to pass. It is not even clear if the Senate has the power to adjust the Code of Conduct. Why risk ostracizing the administration for a bill that will likely be nothing more than virtue signalling anyway? All of this, however, deals with more practical concerns with the bill. These practical concerns are not even the most important; we need to view this bill in light of the goals of the College. We claim to be a place that makes “good men and good citizens in an environment of sound learning.” We enforce that mission through the Honor Code and the Code of Conduct; the former governs integrity and the latter governs behavior. Marijuana usage is a violation of the Code of Conduct specifically, which states that “The Hampden-Sydney student will behave as a gentleman at all times

and in all places.” Usage of cannabis is contrary both to the goals of the College and the Code of Conduct. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), marijuana usage is associated with poor academic performance, poor economic and social outcomes, psychiatric disorders, and permanent deficits in memory and cognitive ability. These factors violate the “environment of sound learning” and undermine a man’s ability to be a “good citizen.” I am not so naive as to say that the current system prevents marijuana usage entirely. However, I think it is fair to say that for some it discourages them. In the same way the Honor Code does not stop all lying, cheating, or stealing, the Code of Conduct’s prohibition on cannabis usage is nonetheless worthwhile. The Student Senate should continue to deny the passage of the Cannabis Resolution.

# College Pulls Trigger on New Gun Range

MASON GWALTNEY '23  
STAFF WRITER

As relatively few students are aware, there is, and has been for some time, a campus gun range. However, this gun range is for the exclusive use of the HSC Shooting Club. The gun range for many years has been 15-to-20-miles south of campus in an area with next to no cellular service. This factor alone was a major reason to relocate the gun range to an area that was closer to campus and in an area with cellular service. The new location for the range is Slate Hill. This area is a mere three miles or less from campus. This massive 250+ acre property borders the Sage brook Apartments. The property also has the benefit of natural barriers. From densely wooded areas dampening the sounds of gunshots to a small hill

which club members will shoot towards, the property itself is essentially prime real estate for the club. As far as construction of the gun range it will be kept relatively simple. There will only be five shooting stands each with their own clay pigeon thrower. Additionally, a small shed will be constructed to safely store equipment. Currently, access to the range will only be permitted to members of the shooting club and their current plan is to only practice twice a week for approximately two hours on each day that they practice. All club members will be properly supervised by the shooting coach as to prevent accidents from occurring. There are no plans set in place to expand the range to non-club member use or to add any rifle or pistol elements. It will be strictly shotgun usage. However, Dean Sabbatini expressed

that he would like to eventually see the range progress to being more accessible to the student body as a whole. This reasons for the range to currently be exclusive to the shooting club is so that they can use the range to practice and prepare for the shooting tournaments that they attend each year. Additionally, prohibiting anyone except members of the club is done so to ensure the availability and integrity of the range. The most notable place that the club has traveled to and competed in is Las Vegas, yet they currently have their eyes set on traveling to Alaska. For students who wish to join this club their best points of contact will be either Dean Sabbatini or the Director of High Adventure, Scott Schmolesky. Both men are staunch supporters of and oversee the club, as well as the development of this new range.

## Equity and Inclusion, cont’d

clusion and Wilson Center, stated that Hampden-Sydney and the Classics program here helped him “learn how to think.” Hearing about his time and H-SC and how he used the skills he obtained here on this very campus to help him later on in life was a truly

inspiring moment, and he shared how these experiences he had here at this school helped shape him later on in life. At the same time, however, he admitted that he also became who he is today by experiencing new things and looking for the perspectives

of different individuals. Guest speakers on campus give us that opportunity for other individuals from other environments to share their own unique insights on education and cultivating spirits of excellence. With the Office of Equity and Inclusion setting a good example for the school, along with Dr. Arieti’s exemplary lecture series last fall, Hampden-Sydney seems to be going in the right direction in terms of opportunities outside of the classroom for students to learn. Hopefully we can keep it up and recognize the value of continuing to enrich the college’s overall academic environment. This momentum that we have, however, can only be maintained if we as students recognize the unique opportunities with which we are presented. Once we are gone and graduated, we will not always have the chance to attend lectures such as these.

## 4/10 cont’d

would have met MTRF with Wednesday as a study, we would have a break exactly like the one we had, and most importantly, with similar strategic division of classes, we would have had enough space to hold classes safely. Not only would we have held classes safely, but we would have held them in such a way that allowed us to learn and that did less damage. If you’re also still recovering from the four weeks, you’re in my prayers.

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SPORTS

# Tiger Football: A Change in Culture Leads to a Strong Start

HARRISON CARTER '23  
GUEST WRITER

With two wins in just under a week, our Hampden-Sydney football team is off to a successful and hopeful start. With the constant stress of COVID and a lack of attendance for the 2021 season, players and coaches have had to adapt and overcome to be successful during the abnormal season. This season was postponed nearly six months, meaning the players had a long off-season, which seems to be to our advantage. Following the 2019–20 season, the Tigers have changed the entire culture of their team, and it’s paying off. The first game of the season and our home opener against Southern Virginia University (SVU) was

Hampden-Sydney’s first football game in 469 days. This game proved to be a powerful first showing for the Tigers, ending in a 21-0 victory. Melik Frost ‘24, a freshman from May River High School in Bluffton, South Carolina, rushed for two touchdowns. Frost is hopeful for a big first season with the Tigers, saying that everyone “has bought in since the beginning.” Following the big win against SVU, the Tigers faced Shenandoah in Winchester. Our defense proved resilient yet again, leading to a 26-0 win against the Hornets. Riggs Jordan ‘21, a senior captain from Martinsville, Virginia, said a large change in the culture is to thank for the continued success on the field. Jordan said that last year the team became focused on

individual performance but has since found unity as a team. With the added complications created by the COVID-19 pandemic, players and coaches alike have had to be open to new adjustments, while also putting in the hard work necessary to win. This change in the culture has allowed every player to come

together as one and focus on the task at hand. This new mentality on the team is thanks in part to Assistant Football Coach Zach Zullinger ’07, an offensive line coach and the strength and conditioning coordinator. Zullinger said that he brought new core values into the weight room to motivate his players, including “be-

ing a great teammate, giving great effort, and always competing.” Coming off the 2019–20 season, the coaching staff made sure to focus on the team’s core values before anything else. This change in the mentality came at a crucial time in the program’s history, as being a good teammate and a hard worker has

become more important now than before the pandemic started. Players have taken to these core values and continue to flourish on and off the field. If there is one thing that players are looking for, it’s the continued support of the student body. Riggs said that “we appreciate all the support and all the love that everyone is showing us.”



Photo courtesy Michael Van Citters '22

## A Competitive Season in the NBA

JACOB MYERS '21  
SPORTS EDITOR

This NBA season has undoubtedly been one of the more competitive seasons we have witnessed in years. We no longer live in the days where it is the Warriors versus whichever team LeBron James is on. While those matchups were exciting, we are beginning to witness a shift in play that may dictate professional basketball for years to come. Like the Warriors changing the game of basketball, multiple teams around the league are setting a competitive precedent that will have to be matched. This shift will change how NBA prospects are valued—furthermore, we will begin to see a shift in the value of coaches. Which ones are running the desired offensive set? Which ones are developing the young talent for this new hyper-efficient offense? Firstly, it is worth noting that out of the top 250 players that have played the

most efficient seasons of all-time, over 30 players this season are on that list. This season is also posting the highest true shooting percentage of all time, sitting at around 57%. Also, during Steph Curry’s amazing MVP season, he averaged 30 points on nearly 67% true shooting. That year, only 20 players shot above 60% TS. This season, over 80 players shoot over that percentage—that number is astonishing. NBA teams used to build around a high-volume scorer that could shoot somewhat efficiently. Now, we are seeing teams build around players that value efficiency over volume. And the teams that are doing this effectively are standing out as contenders. The first team worth noting is the Utah Jazz. The team is currently 30-11, above the Clippers, Lakers, and Suns. They have a deep and dynamic offensive system that values high-volume three-pointers on red-hot efficiency. Most notably, I would not

say the Jazz have a superstar on the team. While Donovan Mitchell is an amazing player, he still posts cold shooting nights quite frequently—however, with players such as Joe Ingles, Gobert, Jordan Clarkson, and Mike Conley, the team shines both defensively and offensively. Currently, this team is the team to beat. If the team continues to bring this offense and defense, the Larry O’Brien trophy will be in Utah. The Phoenix Suns are worth mentioning as well. This past offseason, the team acquired the veteran star point guard Chris Paul. With that acquisition, the Suns are now second in the West just below the Jazz. Each game, they score a little less than the Jazz—however, the team is more consistent defensively. Devin Booker leads the helm with scoring while Chris Paul distributes. The team is efficient, deep, and solid defensively. My only concern with this team

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## Bogues, cont’d

be a struggle for any basketball player. “He helped me learn how to conduct myself both on and off the court”. Undoubtedly, when one is suddenly exposed to fame, given a notable income, and is pressured to play well in an already competitive league, mentors such as Moses Malone are vital to any professional, developing athlete.

Finally, I got the opportunity to ask Muggsy a question. Ignorantly, I asked him who was his favorite player to play alongside during his career. I could tell this question somewhat annoyed him, as Muggsy has played with many NBA stars over his 13 years in the league. Some of his teammates include Dell

Curry, Larry Johnson, Alonzo Mourning, Vince Carter, and Tracy McGrady. The interview with Muggsy was undoubtedly a great one—he provided insightful information to fanatical sports fans, college athletes, and those seeking to find solutions to the many social issues that exist in this country today.

## Hockey Corner

ZAC RICHMAN '22  
STAFF WRITER

**Washington Capitals News:** The biggest news out of D.C. lately has been regarding goalies. Samsonov is back. Can he still survive in the NHL? People were worried about his capabilities as a goalie and whether or not Samsonov could compete at the national level, effectively playing 50/50 hockey with Vanecek.

However this goalie battle plays out and whether or not Samsonov is ready to step up to the challenge remains to be seen. Both him and Vanecek were the youngest two goalies in the Capitals lineup as the Capitals flitted around the league making trades to account for losing Braden Holtby over the summer to the Canucks. (Thanks for the memories, good riddance!) With Lundqvist JUST recovering from open heart surgery and Craig Anderson being a bald headed bum with an awful record from an awful team, it really is up to these two young men to step up and face the music. Vanecek has been playing on his head. Samsonov has been playing better than he was, but his first few games back were shaky for sure.

Everyone knows that we have a deep playoff run in the books as long as our goaltending is solid. The Capitals are hitting their stride and some of the only ques-

| Rank: | Team:                | Record: |
|-------|----------------------|---------|
| 1     | New York Islanders   | 21-8-4  |
| 2     | Vegas Golden Knights | 21-7-1  |
| 3     | Washington Capitals  | 20-7-4  |
| 4     | Tampa Bay Lightning  | 23-6-2  |
| 5     | Colorado Avalanche   | 19-8-2  |
| 6     | Florida Panthers     | 20-7-4  |
| 7     | Carolina Hurricanes  | 21-7-3  |
| 8     | Toronto Maple Leafs  | 20-1-2  |
| 9     | Edmonton Oilers      | 21-23-0 |
| 10    | St. Louis Blues      | 16-10-5 |
| 11    | Minnesota Wild       | 19-10-1 |
| 12    | Boston Bruins        | 16-8-4  |
| 13    | Pittsburgh Penguins  | 19-11-2 |
| 14    | Winnipeg Jets        | 18-11-2 |
| 15    | Montreal Canadiens   | 14-8-9  |
| 16    | New York Rangers     | 14-13-4 |

tions come with tempo and goaltending. It often feels like we get outplayed until we are ready to play. This type of play will not carry over to the playoffs well. The Capitals cannot wait until they are ready to play and still go far. The Capitals need to figure out how to become a 3 period team and play all the way through a hockey game. If they can do that, I may have to update my Stanley Cup tattoo soon.

**League Wide News:** Oilers vs. Canadiens has been postponed due to COVID, with a few Montreal forwards being placed on the NHL COVID-19 List (above). This is a pretty big deal as it gives some teams an opportunity to move up in points and on the power rankings list. Don’t let their low standing in the power rankings fool you, the Canadians are

one of the big threats within the North and are standing right in the middle of the pack with 37 points. They have less wins than everyone but the Senators. This could cause a major shakeup as the Canucks and Flames seek to reclaim a playoff spot, both coming off a two loss streak. Looking on to the west, The Avalanche have had a staggering comeback, Winning 7 straight games and going 8-1-1 in their last ten. This is one of the more challenging conferences in the NHL, second only to the Eastern division and possibly tied with the North Division, the Avalanche have managed to turn around a rough start into some serious points. I have them lower in my power rankings than most because I don’t believe in streaks. Streaks are

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LIFE

Satire: The End of Violence

DANIEL NIVENS '24  
STAFF WRITER

On February 14, President Joe Biden finally announced his plans to curb gun violence in America. No sensible person denies this epidemic of violence; President Biden, however, is one of the first to respond to it. I applaud him for stepping up. It's about time our officials do something, anything, really.

Joe Biden's plans don't go far enough, though. In fact, one specific policy is clearly too narrow. Rightly, Joe Biden has said he wants to repeal liability protection for gun manufacturers. It's about time the American people are able to sue these companies for making these weapons of war. But guns aren't the only tools of crime in this country. Why do the producers of all these other tools get off the hook?

Let's look at the next obvious example. Knives are used all over the country in robberies, murders, rapes, and all sorts of crimes. They're deadly sharp. They maim and kill. They cause fear and trepidation. After all of the gun manufacturers are sued out of existence, we should go after CutCo and Swiss Army. Their irresponsibility at putting these weapons of war on the market is unbearable.

But why should we stop at guns and knives? Crafty corporations are putting all sorts of dangerous

items out on the market for any old sod to buy. Ropes, power tools, hammers, screwdrivers, baseball bats, silverware, rags, and chemicals. They're all used in crimes every single day. And that's not even talking about cars. They snuff out hundreds of thousands of lives every single day. We should be suing every car manufacturer there is for the slaughter they've released upon us. None of these companies should be spared our fury: to hold it back would be to guarantee more death.

But the saddest thing is, we've known all this for decades. We know what carnage these companies bring. Yet, our raw material companies, those timber and mining companies, still sell their goods to irresponsible entities. We should be able to sue them for their negligence too. Maybe we should even be able to sue their employees, whoever they might be, for daring to produce materials that are used to make weapons of wars.

Or, maybe, just maybe, we can all realize that no warning about misuse on any product will stop violence. Maybe we can finally realize that not one of these items are dangerous on their own, but only in the hands of the wrong person. Maybe we can realize that no company should be sued for how their product is used because they didn't intend it to be used that way. Maybe we will realize policies that sound good aren't always good.

Vaccination, cont'd

encourages everyone to get the vaccines, but it will not be required. The first vaccination clinic was held this past Thursday, March 18, 2021, where those who were eligible for the vaccine, and wanted to get it, could be administered the vaccine.

Not only were Hampden-Sydney faculty eligible to get the vaccine at this clinic, members of surrounding communities who were eligible could get it as well. Sabbatini also said that the school would help the Virginia Department of Health with these administrations. Those who need the vaccine before others, those who fall into the high-risk categories, will have an equal opportunity to get the vaccine

just like everyone else. Dr. Mike McDermott, Dean of the Faculty, has "spearheaded" the clinic setup according to Sabbatini, and he has played a major role in getting the clinics up and running. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has provided the school with guidance as more and more people get vaccinated in terms of mask wearing, social distancing, and handwashing. With this being said, everyone should continue to maintain social distancing, wear masks, and continue frequent hand washing to ensure that Hampden-Sydney College stays safe and its COVID-19 numbers low.

Christians' Corner

Questions for Christians, Answered by a Christian:

De Amare

ISAAC WHITFIELD '21  
STAFF WRITER

What does it mean to say that "God is Love?" I would like to present to you what I think the Church thinks it means to say that God is Love. We can find a clue in the Old Testament. Moses is receiving his commission and vocation to free the Lord's people held in Egypt by Pharoh. And Moses asks God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" (Ex. 3:13).

A fair question, at that time there were many so called Gods, and the Israelites in their time of captivity might need some clarification. However, God does something interesting here. God reveals to Moses the Divine name. "God said to Moses, "I am who I am."1 And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: I am has sent me to you" (Ex. 3:14).

God is not just saying that He exists, but rather that He is existence. All things exist because they were given that existence by God, the first mover. We can see this later in the

Gospel of St. John. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:1-5).

With this foundational understanding, we can extend this understanding of an attribute of God is existence, to Love. It is not that God is loving, he is Love. Whatever Love is that too is a part of the essence of God. This is expressed in Holy Scripture.

"So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him" (1 John 4:16). It is a great comfort to know that our succor, our strong tower, our refuge is the One who is. Being is found, and is sustained, by the Holy One of Israel.

A takeaway from Holy Scripture and this understanding is that Christian duty is to abide in the Love of

God. Not only abide but to spread that Love and follow the command of Christ.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . ." (Matthew 28:19). Pray that God gives you personally an opportunity to love someone, whether that be to volunteer or talk to someone sitting alone at Pannill.

Or maybe, all you need to do is listen, a lesson I am struggling with now. Know that God loves and cares for you. "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7).

God loves you. Of course, this is just my humble interpretation. There are over a billion Christians, each with their own views. I am always open to discussion and criticism. Please email me more questions at whitfieldI21@hsc.edu, and I will endeavor to answer them as best as I can. *Non nobis Domine.*

NBA, cont'd

is the general lack of playoff experience. Most of the players on the Suns are young, inexperienced, and streaky. If they can gain momentum going into the playoffs, this team will be tough to beat.

I think it is now time to switch to the East. The two teams I'm going to discuss are particularly interesting. To begin, I would like to start with the Philadelphia 76ers. Joel Embiid, despite his absence in injury, is still my MVP. The man cannot be guarded, and every year is a potential defensive player of the year candidate. The team is currently 29-13 with the second-best defense in the league. What is somewhat shocking, however, is the extreme lack of threes the team takes. Head coach Doc Rivers has certainly inspired more three-point shooting—however, the team still focuses on busting into the paint with high efficiency. The Sixer's ability to shut down opposing stars while running shooters off the three-point line are at an elite level. If the team can continue to dominate inside, Embiid may witness his first NBA final.

Lastly, I would like to discuss the Brooklyn Nets. It is certainly one of the weirdest teams I have witnessed. The team is currently 28-14, right behind the first-seeded 76ers. The team has absolutely no depth. The Nets, however, have a killer starting lineup when healthy. So far, the starters consist of Kyrie Irving, James Harden, Kevin Durant, Blake Griffin, and Deandre Jordan. There are three annual MVP candidates on this team. And even though the NBA only allows one basketball on the court at the same time, this team is deadly. Defensively, there is no secret, they suck—however, offensively, if this team can remain healthy, will be nearly unstoppable.

The above teams I have mentioned are beginning to fall into this hyper-efficient category of scoring. As the season continues, these four teams will either continue to light-up the court and change the necessary level of play needed to win or eventually tire out. However, with the mixture of young talent, veterans, and competent head coaches, I predict these teams will change the NBA for years and take home an NBA title this season.

Hockey, cont'd

meant to be broken.

But its hard to argue with a goal differential of 36, (scoring 36 more goals than they have allowed) which is the highest differential in the West. The only team holding them back is the Golden Knights, who everyone knew would be good from the get-go.

There is very little tolerance for losing in that organization and if you're not winning, you're leaving. One can only wonder how long that sort of environment survives.

Central Division. Otherwise known as Florida bully zone. Tampa and the Panthers have been tearing up the Central Division. It makes one almost, ALMOST, wonder what they're doing in the 'Central' Division anyways. It makes about as much sense as having the Hurricanes there I guess, but these three teams are blowing out the Division and it's not even close.

It's fun to

watch some of the worst teams fight for their comeuppance, for example, the Blackhaws. (Before they began to suck again, L4) I can't stand this Division. I really hate how easy it is and how little the borders make sense. I hate that 5 out of the 8 teams are layups for the other 3 teams. I hate that the point differential between team 3 and 4 is 11 points and that the Lightning have exactly 2 times as many points as the Red Wings. It makes good teams look much better than they are.

I bet they face the North Division in the finals and they both realize just how bad both of their respective divisions are. The East and West are competitive, with real, competitive teams playing other competitive teams. Nashville Predators? I've never heard of that team. The Chicago Red Wings? No. The Boston Bruins, Now

that sounds like a real team. New York Rangers. Classic, scrappy underdog team? Yeah, that rings a bell. No teams in the North are real. You're telling me that the best teams in the division regularly lose to the worst? I don't really remember hockey being played that way... Strange.

Ok, time to talk about the East. Holy talent, save for the redheaded stepchild in the Buffalo Sabers. Dude, are you really on a 14 loss streak? Eichel wants out. Taylor Hall is crying himself to sleep. Jeff Skinner is swimming in money on the bench. Unfortunately, it seems that the owners, The Pegulas, can't keep their grubby hands from meddling with the team. Let's just hope that they stay away from the Bills, or I see a lot of broken office tables in the future for corporate as #BillsMafia finally has something to celebrate this year.